

The requirement of a Nightsun Lighting System on each Firehawk Helicopter has been a recognized need since 2001. At the time the Firehawk Helicopters were purchased, a suitable mount location in relation to the water drop tank had never been conceived on a Blackhawk airframe. This new location would require state-of-the-art mechanical engineering to accomplish the installation. The second constraint to immediate installation of the Nightsun Lighting Systems was the type and quantity of direct current load the Firehawk medical interior and water drop tank imposed. This would also require specific electrical engineering. In respect to these facts, two Nightsun Lighting Systems and related components were acquired during the initial contract period with Air Methods Corporation; however, they were not installed.

A proprietary agreement was reached between Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation and Air Methods Corporation to engineer and fabricate a mount for the Firehawk Helicopters. This work was completed in January 2004 at no cost to the Fire Department.

The installation of the Nightsun Lighting Systems through Air Methods Corporation will enhance the safety of night flight missions and provide for consistency with the other Bell 412 aircraft.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

Approval of the recommended action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal #4 Fiscal Responsibility.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The estimated cost of the installation of the two Nightsun Lighting Systems will not exceed \$145,000 and the Department's 2004-05 Adopted Budget has adequate funding for this service. Sufficient appropriation is budgeted under Services and Supplies in the Operations Bureau Budget Unit. There is no impact on net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

The County Purchasing Agent has a statutory limitation of \$100,000 for Sundry Services; therefore, your Board's approval is necessary to accomplish this installation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
November 30, 2004
Page 3

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

Approval of the recommended action will enable the Department to continue our efforts to provide fire protection and life safety services to the residents of Los Angeles County.

CONCLUSION:

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, please return adopted copies of this letter to:

1. Los Angeles County Consolidated Fire Protection District
Materials Management Division
5801 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 100
Commerce, CA 90040
Attention: James Ealey, Chief, Materials Management Division
2. Internal Services Department
Purchasing Division
1100 N. Eastern Avenue, Room 102
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Attention: Joe Sandoval, Division Manager

If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Chief Michael W. Dyer, North Regional Operations Bureau, at (661) 286-2792.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Michael Freeman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:hn

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller